

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 15, 1978
TO: Division File
FROM: Henry A. Cobo
SUBJECT: Will County
Wilmington/Celotex Corporation

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



356579

The subject site consists of 40 acres located in the N.W. 1/4 of Section 25, Township 33N, Range 9E, North of Wilmington, Illinois. This parcel of land consists of two disposal sites, a large active disposal site and a smaller site that is closed and not covered. The Celotex Corporation (formerly the P. Carey Company) has utilized these sites for the disposal of refuse generated in its plant since at least 1955. The refuse primarily consists of scrapped shingles, tar paper rolls, wooden pallets and a semi-fluid sludge from the company's post-treatment clarifier.

The older closed and not covered disposal site consists of one large mound approximately 500' long x 135' wide x 15' high. This site is located south of Steward Street in a flood-prone area bordered by the Kankakee River on the west and by Forked Creek on the south. The entire mound is in need of 2 feet of final cover due to the exposed solidified shingle and tar paper waste. This area is sparsely covered with secondary growth plants primarily weeds, grass and some young trees, however, it remains a scenic blight.

The active disposal site encompasses a much larger area approximately 3 to 4 acres within the 40 acre parcel. The site is bordered by the Kankakee River on the west and residential areas to the northeast and east. The site is located on a sandy terrace in a valley of the Kankakee River, with a topographic relief on the order of 45'. The geologic characteristics of the site are of variable earthen types, primarily sand and limited clay deposits. These soils in general have limited capabilities for retarding the flow or attenuating leachate.

The disposal operation has extended the existing terrace in a north-to-south direction. The result is two active fill areas, and one unlined disposal lagoon. The fill faces are located at the north and south ends of the site, primarily receiving shingles, tar paper rolls and wooden pallets. The company has a construction firm to periodically spread, compact and cover the waste on a daily basis. Rarely has the construction firm complied with the cover requirements at the site. Furthermore, spreading and compacting is kept at a minimum.

The company operates a recycling mill which generates large quantities of a semi-fluid sludge. This waste by-product is derived from the recycling of paper and wood pulp, especially the chemicals and clays from magazine waste. An unlined lagoon approximately 70' long x 30' wide x 10' deep and located at the northwest corner of the north terrace is utilized for disposal. The chemical analysis has indicated that the sludge is heavily contaminated with numerous organic and inorganic pollutants.

In conclusion, with the apparent inability of the soils to retain the contaminants present in the sludge and the proximity of the Kankakee River, alternative methods of disposal for the sludge should be considered.

Suggested Technological Improvements

Several steps for improving the site's general condition and aid in proper closure are as follows:

- A. Daily and Intermediate cover-all areas requiring additional daily and intermediate cover shall be brought into compliance with existing minimum standards immediately.
- B. Final cover applied to the closed not covered site. 500' x 135' x 15' final grading and seeding should be completed within three (3) months.
- C. Cease and desist order on disposal of the sludge. Alternative disposal method should be ordered.
- D. Removal of all accumulated sludge and proper closure of the lagoon.

HAC:dw/3478/18-19

May 17, 1978

cc: Northern Region
R. D. LaScala
Ken Bechely
Land FOS Manager